

## **DOJ Announces Human Trafficking Taskforce and Grants**

I think it's important to understand just how evil traffickers can be and how horrible these cases are.

As if the idea of kids selling their bodies isn't bad enough the stories from federal and local prosecutors today were even worse. Kids with backgrounds of sexual abuse at home lured into a life of prostitution. A Justice Department lawyer recalls one victim locked in a trailer with nothing but a bed and a teddy bear.

She was held there and forced to have sex with up to thirty men per day. Thirty men per day, day after day after day. Fourteen year old girl.

Now a Justice Department grant of nearly half a million dollars will fund a task force aimed at stopping teen prostitution by targeting the pimps that exploit these kids and urging all agencies to pitch in.

A paramedic who might be showing up on a scene and finding a young kid whose been beaten up who looks traumatized, scared, maybe in the company of people who look like they might fit the profile of traffickers.

But a key weapon in this battle is still missing. No matter how many pimps are arrested someone will likely supply child sex workers as long as customers are willing to pay for their services. And in the city Johns are often let off with a fine and maybe a night in jail.

Whether it be felonies, serious jail time, forfeit their car, heavy fines. I mean, you know, it's like everything else if you don't have a demand then there is no need for this kind of criminal activity to take place.

But that will take action by city lawmakers. In the meantime there is now more money for DC cops to hit the streets, hopefully saving children from having to work them.